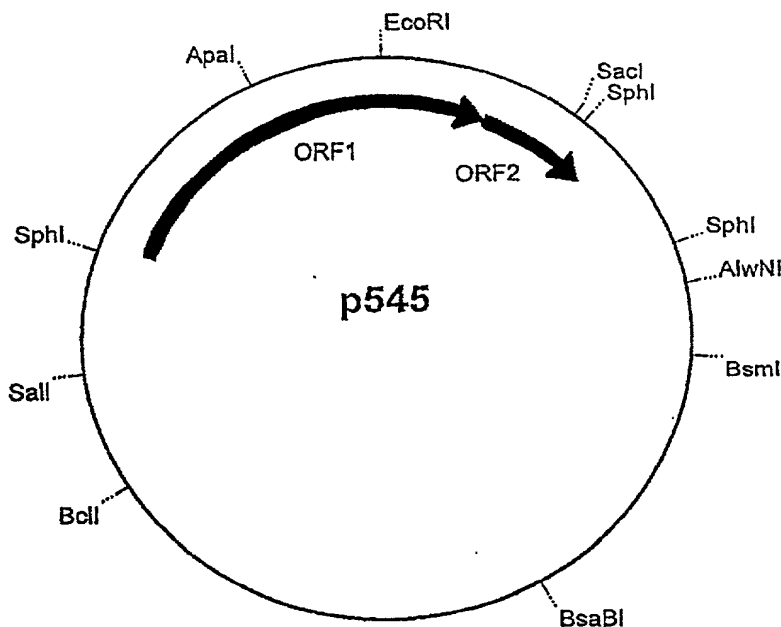




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(57) Abstract

An endogenous plasmid of *Propionibacterium* is described, isolated from *Propionibacterium freudenreichii* LMG 16545 (deposited as CBS 101022), and its sequence provided. This plasmid can be used to transform *Propionibacterium* to express homologous or heterologous proteins, in the production of recombinant proteins or products of enzymes, for example vitamin B₁₂.